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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/845,379	04/30/2001	Michael C. VanZandt	5017D3	3136

27941            7590            06/24/2002

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EXAMINER

SACKY, EBENEZER O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1626	

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.  
**09/845,379**

Applicant(s)

**VANZANDT ET AL.**Examiner  
**EBENEZER SACKEY**Art Unit  
**1626**

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 9, 2002
- 2a)  This action is FINAL.      2b)  This action is non-final.
- 3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
- 4)  Claim(s) 2-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6)  Claim(s) 2-8 is/are rejected.
- 7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8)  Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11)  The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a)  approved b)  disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

- a)  All b)  Some\* c)  None of:

1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

- a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

- 15)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 4

- 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

Claim 1 has been canceled and has been replaced with new claim 8.

Claims 2, 3 and 5 have been amended.

### ***Response to Restriction***

***Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, species of Examples 20 and 21 in Paper No. 3 is acknowledged.***

The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors.

Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly

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owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C..112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. These claims are drawn to methods of using the compounds of the invention in treating various disease state. See page 11.

It is noted that the specification provides disclosures for biological assays for MMP Inhibition (Examples 23, and Table 1) which are drawn to specific activities. The claims as recited would give rise to undue

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experimentation to one of ordinary skill to ascertain how those diseases are treated especially the tumor metastasis. It is noted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not extrapolate the broad spectrum of applicability asserted in the instant methods (i.e., the treatment of the diseases listed especially tumor retardation) from the limited examples and disclosure of the instant application.

For rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, certain factors must be considered under the holding in *In re Wands*, 8 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1400, 1404 (CAFC, 1988):1) the nature of the invention is that of using the compounds of the invention in treating various diseases listed, such compounds may or may not retard tumor metastasis; 2) biaryl oxobutyric compounds are known in the art; 3) the level of predictability is low, as is true of most biological and chemical systems; 4) the amount of guidance provided by the inventors is minimal since no disclosure is provided for the treatment of the diseases listed; no teaching as to how these activities (inhibition) correlate to the various diseases. The instant specification provides no direction for performing methods commensurate in scope with

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the instant claims; 5) the existence of working examples is limited to the preparation of the compounds as note Examples 1-16 etc.; 6) therefore, an undue quantity of experimentation would be needed to make the invention based on the content of the disclosure. At best, the method currently asserted for broadly treating the various disease state would be more adequately described as a method for treating osteoarthritis. "The test is not merely quantitative, since a considerable amount of experimentation is permissible, if it is merely routine, or if the specification in question provides a reasonable amount of guidance with respect to the direction in which the experiment should proceed." *In re Wands*, 8 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1400, 1404 (CAFC, 1988).

The disclosure is devoid of disclosures which would the skilled artisan in methods for treating all diseases listed on page 11.

### ***Double Patenting***

3. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute)

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so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321© may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

4. Claims 2-8 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-2,

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5-7 of U.S. Patent No. 5,925,637. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because there is considerable overlap between the claims. The instant compound and composition are taught by the reference compounds and composition when T is Cl, "r" is zero and R<sup>40</sup> is bi-heterocyclic structure. See especially claims 1 and 2.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to E. Sackey whose telephone number is (703) 305-6889. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph K. McKane, can be reached on (703) 308-4537. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-4556.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

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EOS

June 21, 2002



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph K. McKane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Joseph K. McKane

Supervisory Patent Examiner

Art Unit 1626, Group 1600

Technology Center 1